The woman who took revenge on Abu Hamza after Yemen kidnapping

Technology tycoon Mary, from New Zealand, is the star witness for the prosecution in a New York court where the mullah is facing a string of terror charges

Revenge: Mary Quin and Hamza

Hate-filled Abu Hamza will rue the day he crossed swords with Mary Quin – because her heroism is set to cost him a

life behind bars .

Technology tycoon Mary, 59, is the star witness for the prosecution in a New York court where the mullah is facing a string of terror charges, reports the Sunday People.

And this week she'll take the stand in Manhattan to reveal how she fearlessly confronted the hook-handed cleric at a London mosque – and taped him confessing the part he played when she was seized by Islamist kidnappers 16 years ago.

Prosecutors are convinced her incredible story of revenge will lead to one-eyed father-of-seven Hamza, 56, spending the rest of his life behind bars.

New Zealander Mary's involvement in the case dates back to 1998 when she was with a group of 16 travellers crossing the desert in Yemen.

A gang of masked men with grenade-launchers and automatic weapons ambushed them and stole their passports

But hours later the kidnappers began joking with the hostages – and when Mary spotted vehicles approaching them she thought a deal had been done to release all the tourists.

In fact the trucks carried government troops, who opened fire on the captors.

Four hostages – including Brits Margaret Whitehouse and Ruth Williamson – were killed in the crossfire.

In a book about her ordeal, Mary wrote: "I could not believe this was the day, the place, where my life would end."

After an hour of heavy fighting, the terrorist guarding Mary was wounded and fell to the floor clutching his Kalashnikov.

Courageous Mary – an expert shot who loves hunting – didn't hesitate.

She shouted to the injured man: "I want that gun, you little b******."

But she had to kick him in the head before she could wrestle the weapon off him.

Trial: Cleric Abu Hamza (Image: PA)

Then she sprinted to safety among the attacking Yemeni troops.

However, she could never forget her dead comrades – and vowed to expose the men who masterminded the murderous ambush.

She scoured news reports, made lists of suspects, quizzed an ex-PM of the Gulf state and met diplomats and FBI agents.

And the same name kept coming up time after time – Abu Hamza.

His associate Abu Hassan had led the kidnap gang and US prosecutors said “the conspiracy started in the offices of Abu Hamza, who exports terrorism to other countries”.

She discovered he preached at a mosque in Finsbury Park, north London, so she sent him a string of emails demanding an explanation for her kidnap in Yemen.

When no reply came she decided to go and confront him.

And in 2000 she left her home in America and crossed the Atlantic to Britain.

She watched the entrance to the mosque from a nearby pub and waited for Hamza to arrive.

She wrote in her book Kidnapped In Yemen: “I suddenly had an overwhelming feeling that I should leave.

"A strange certainty came over me that I was about to meet the mullah.”

Soon afterwards she saw Hamza drive up in a battered Mercedes.

She slipped through a crowd of his disciples and said to him: “My name is Mary Quin. I arrived from America this morning in the hope of speaking with you.

"Did you read the emails I sent?”

Adventure: Mary in Yemen

Hamza gestured Mary into the mosque with his stumps.

Inside, she told him: “I need to talk to you. I’m writing a book and have come all the way from the United States to talk to you.

"Is there any time over the weekend you could spare me 15 minutes?”

Hamza promised to spare her a quarter of an hour the following Sunday evening.

Mary wrote: “I stepped aside as his bulky frame pushed past me and disappeared down the corridor.”

Describing the Sunday showdown, Mary said: “After a 30-minute wait in an empty basement-level prayer room, I was escorted to Abu Hamza’s office.

“I removed my shoes and draped a black shawl over my head and shoulders before I continued along the corridor to an office door hidden behind a heavy curtain under a stairwell.

“Abu Hamza was sitting behind a desk.

"Several youths in their late teens sat on the floor against one wall and looked at me curiously.

“To my surprise, four young children were playing on the floor.”

He immediately launched into a tirade about Algeria.

But Mary cut him off and said: “I am one of the tourists who was taken hostage by Abu Hassan.”

Hamza was speechless for a moment – then smiled and said: “I am surprised that you would have come here.

"Very surprised.”

Mary asked to tape their meeting. Incredibly, Hamza agreed.

She said: “Our 15-minute conversation lasted nearly an

hour."

Hamza admitted providing a satellite phone for Abu Hassan and being in touch with him during the 1998 ambush.

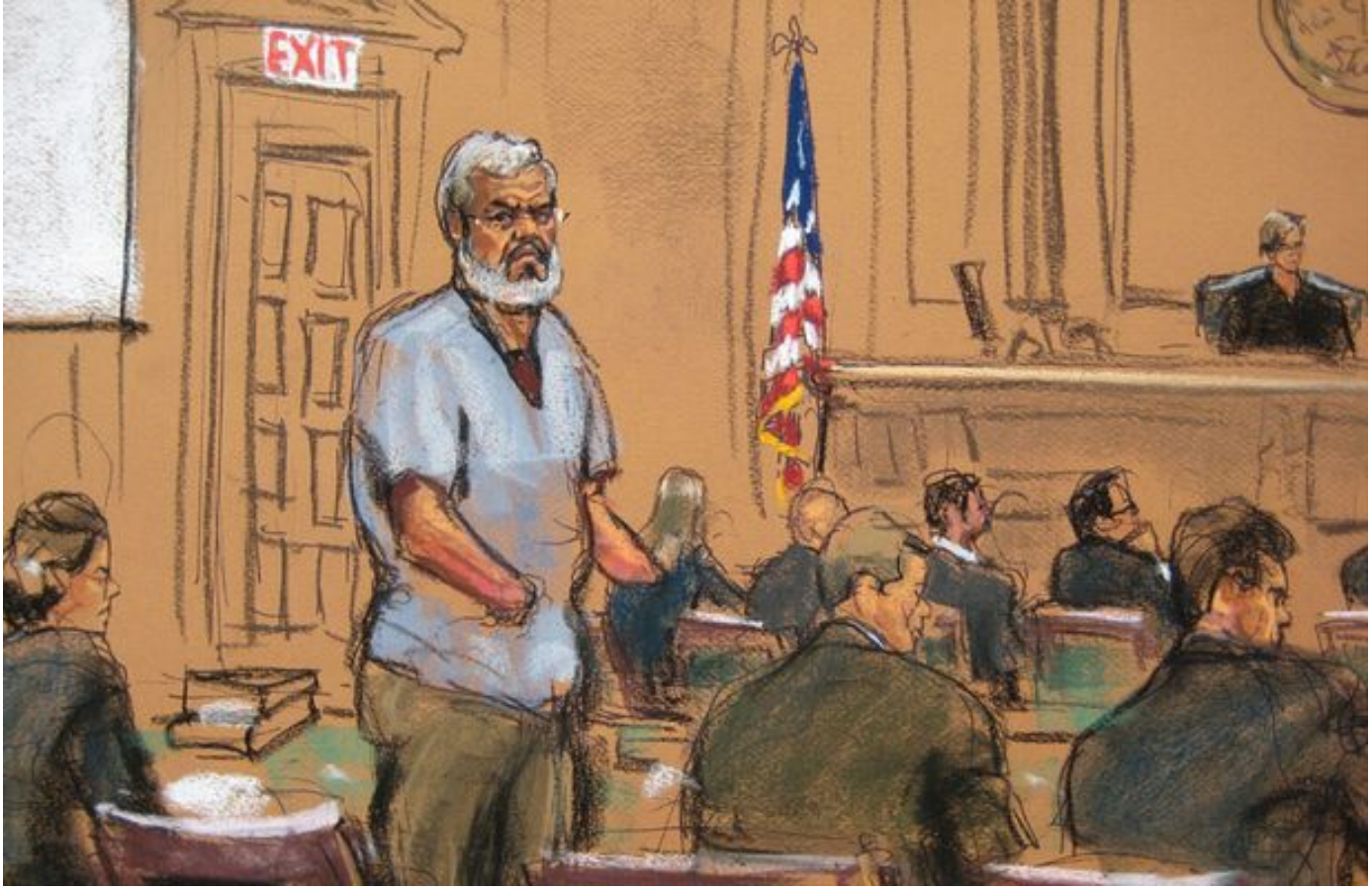
He expressed regret for the deaths of the four tourists and insisted he had ordered the kidnappers to keep them safe.

Hamza told her: "We never thought it would be that bad."

She also asked whether he wanted to turn Britain into an Islamic state.

Hamza replied: "I don't intend everyone should be converted to Islam but the image of Islam has been distorted.

"Western countries want Muslim countries to be poor and weak.



Terror charge: Abu Hamza in court in the US (Image: REUTERS)

“I want peace for those who love peace, war for those who love war.”

At the end of the interview, Hamza leaned forward and warned: “Do not go back to the south of Yemen.

"They will not bother with kidnapping foreigners next time.

“Rocket attacks on tourists will be next. From a hill, they can fire a rocket at a car. You will not see it coming.”

Mary – now chief executive officer of international technology giant Callaghan Innovation – added; “Hamza said he could spare no more time and called on one of the

youths sitting behind me on the floor to escort me from the mosque.

“I thanked him for his time and asked if I could follow up with him in future if I had more questions.

“He gave his mobile phone number.”

The recorded conversation was a vital part of the evidence used to get Hamza extradite from Britain to the US, where Mary will this week testify at his trial.

Prosecutors say he is a global terrorist leader who bragged after 9/11: “Everyone was happy when the planes hit the World Trade Centre.”

By chance, the new Freedom Tower that replaced the fallen twin towers is visible from the 15th floor courtroom’s windows.

Hamza’s lawyers originally asked the court for references to 9/11 and al-Qaeda mastermind Osama bin Laden to be kept to a minimum during the trial.

But Hamza ignored his four-strong team and instead sent the judge a five-page letter saying he had no problem with either subject being mentioned.

He also demanded to speak for himself during the opening

statements, rather than rely on lawyers.

And he spends most of the time in court making notes using a false hand.

His trademark hooks were taken away when he was extradited in 2012.

Hamza – who claims he lost his hands and the eye fighting Soviet troops after the then-USSR invaded Afghanistan in 1979 – is facing 11 terror-related charges in New York .